

# Betty Gallo & Company

Advocates for  
Social Justice

January 11, 2013

The Honorable Gerald Fox  
The Honorable Eric Coleman  
Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

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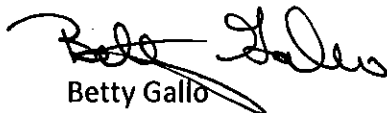
Dear Senator Coleman and Rep. Fox;

I am writing in support of the nomination of Andrew McDonald to the Connecticut Supreme Court. I have worked closely with Andrew since he was first elected to the State Senate. As a freshman legislator, he was appointed the Senate Chair of the Judiciary Committee, one of the most important committees of the Connecticut General Assembly. It was clear even at the beginning of his career in the legislature; the Senate Leadership recognized his leadership abilities and his command of the law. Andrew's leadership was essential to the passage of some of the most important civil rights legislation passed by the Connecticut General Assembly. Andrew is a man of great integrity and is one of the smartest people I know. His understanding of the law and masterful drafting of legislation is reflected in laws throughout our statutes. While I do not have any personal knowledge of Andrew's legal work, I have been told by attorneys for whom I have great respect that Andrew was a great appellate attorney. He has also been an important legal and policy advisor for Governor Dannel Malloy.

As a civil rights advocate, I will always be deeply grateful to Andrew for his leadership and advocacy for civil unions and marriage for same sex couples. Thousands of people have benefited from these laws. Couples who have spent a lifetime together have had their relationship recognized by the state and received all the benefits and responsibilities that come with that recognition. Parents have cried tears of joy at their gay children's weddings. Children served as ring bearers, flower girls and bridesmaids at their parents' ceremonies. These laws have given people comfort and protection at the most joyful and the worst time of their lives.

Andrew's intellect; integrity; command of the law; and, passion for civil rights make him an outstanding judicial nominee. I urge you to approve the nomination of Andrew McDonald to serve on the Connecticut Supreme Court. I believe some day he will be recognized as one of Connecticut's most distinguished judges.

Thank you for your consideration,

  
Betty Gallo